



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA REFUGEE DAY

WHEREAS, the United States Refugee Act of 1980, represented the commitment of the United States government to refugee protection through the resettlement and asylum programs, and marks thirty years that the refugee resettlement program has been an enduring symbol of America's commitment to protect those who flee persecution; and

WHEREAS, thousands of refugees have been resettled in this country through the program and many of them, including their children, are now citizens of the United States and are thriving members of their communities;

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia welcomed more than 2,500 refugees and persons seeking asylum because of wars, human rights violations, and fear of persecution or death to new homes and new lives in 2009; and

WHEREAS, faith-based and nonprofit organizations work cooperatively with employers, church groups, civic, ethnic, and immigrant organizations, schools and universities, private foundations, and various community entities to fully integrate these newcomers into the social, economic, cultural, and political fabric of our communities; and

WHEREAS, the primary goal of the Virginia refugee program is to place newly arrived refugees into jobs at the earliest possible date, to learn English and become self-sufficient as early as possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize June 20, 2010, as **VIRGINIA REFUGEE DAY** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



Robert F. McDonnell
Governor

Janet V. Polare
Secretary of the Commonwealth